

Nixon to Ask Laws To Curb Bombings

3/18/70

By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon told congressional leaders yesterday he would soon send to Congress recommendations for new federal laws to deal with the rash of bombings across the country.

The President was conferring with Republican leaders on the subject when he was handed a note informing him that the Bureau of Engraving and Printing here was being evacuated because of a bomb threat.

Some 2,000 persons were ordered out of the building at 14th and C Sts. SW. after a telephone caller said there would be an explosion in the building between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

District police joined the bureau's security patrol in

searching the building, but they found no bombs and work was resumed in mid-afternoon.

Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) told newsmen following the leadership meeting that Mr. Nixon was "reviewing and giving careful consideration to recommendations with regard to the possible need for federal legislation to meet the spate of bombings across the country."

Scott said that the legislation probably would be designed to protect federal buildings, vehicles in interstate commerce, and private buildings occupied by firms engaged in interstate commerce.

See PRESIDENT, A8, Col. 3

New Judge Eyed In Brown Case

Angered at what he called "highly prejudicial remarks," the chief prosecutor in the Maryland trial of H. Rap Brown asked yesterday that the judge in the case, Harry E. Dyer Jr., disqualify himself.

"I don't feel the state can get a fair trial before Judge Dyer," the prosecutor said.

Details on Page A4.

PRESIDENT, From A1

Scott said that steps might be taken to give greater protection to federal officials.

Asked if he was satisfied with security on Capitol Hill, Scott replied: "Not entirely, no. I think the security on the Hill could be improved."

Scott said that he would "hate for us to be isolated or for anything to be done to prevent free access by constituents, but I think the whole security problem is great in the country and great in Washington, D.C."

The President conferred with Justice Department and White House staff officials last week on the bombing problem and ordered legislation prepared.

Officials said that the aim is to broaden federal statutes that cover interstate transportation of explosives.

Following a series of bombings of churches and synagogues, the 1960 civil rights act made it a federal crime for a person to cross state lines to avoid prosecution for using explosives against a vehicle or building.

A 1968 civil rights act prohibits the interstate transportation of explosives to cause a civil commotion or to deny anyone his civil rights.

Another statute prohibits the interstate transportation of explosives in public but not in private carriers. Justice Department attorneys were reported drafting an amendment to cover all interstate transportation.

One other possibility, it was said, was legislation to require registration requirements on the manufacture, sale and distribution of explosives.

Reps. Charles A. Vanik (D-Ohio) and William E. Minshall (R-Ohio) introduced separate bills Monday dealing with explosives.

The Vanik measure would impose a nuisance tax on explosives. It would be designed to require registration by manufacturers and sellers



United Press International

Republican leaders Ford and Scott tell of possible legislation to deal with bombings.

The Minshall measure would amend the federal gun control act of 1968 to require the seller of explosives to record all sales. It also would prohibit sales to anyone under indictment or who was believed to be mentally unsound.